

which show the contours of the nodes and fibrils, as presently claimed. Further, applicants submit that the reference to Figure 5(c) is inappropriate, as what is shown in this figure is the structure along the break striation after stretching to the breaking point of the expanded PTFE. Thus, the continuous expanded PTFE structure has been destroyed in this figure, and no coated node and fibril structure remains.

In view of the above, applicants submit that the present claims are neither disclosed nor suggested by the teachings of Worden et al.

II. Conclusion and Request for Interview

For the foregoing reasons, the present invention as defined by claims 1-8 is neither taught nor suggested by any of the references of record. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now in form for allowance.

If further questions remain, applicants respectfully request that the examiner telephone applicants' undersigned representative at (302) 292-4179 to schedule an interview in connection with this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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